during next three financial years depending upon techno-commercial viability.

Telephone facilities in Bihar

†907. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the time schedule of the target of providing landline telephone facility to all the panchayats and revenue villages of Bihar;

(b) the number of villages covered by the landline telephone facilities in the State so far; and

(c) the number of applications registered in waiting list to get the telephone connections alongwith the time period to dispose off such wait-listed applicants, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has entered into an agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in Novermber, 2004 for provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in remaining 66,822 unconnected villages in the country. This excludes villages having population less than 100, lying in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas etc. Out of these, 36,014 villages have already been provided with VPTs by BSNL as on 31st October, 2006. The remaining 30,808 villages will be provided VPTs progressively by November, 2007.

(b) 8,399 villages in the state of Bihar have so far been provided with VPTs through landline.

(c) District-wise list of 87,864 number of wait-listed applicants registered in waiting list (as on 31.10.2006) to get the telephone connections in Bihar is given in the Statement (*See* below). The waiting list in all the districts is likely to be cleared progressively by December, 2007 subject to availability of equipments.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

District-wise number of wait-listed applicants in Bihar (as on 31.10.2006)

Sl.No.	Name of District	No. of wait-listed applicants
1	2	3
1.	Bhojpur	4751
2.	Buxar	2023
3.	East Champaran	3508
4.	West Champaran	3986
5.	Bhagalpur	864
6.	Banka	596
7.	Begusarai	3754
8.	Sarari	2962
9.	Siwan	6935
10.	Gopalganj	2969
11.	Darbhanga	5817
12.	Vaishali	4487
13.	Gaya	1269
14.	Aurangabad	1231
15.	Jehanabad	1632
16.	Nawada	1056
17.	Arwal	684
18.	Katihar	1313
19.	Araria	318
20.	Purnea	528
21.	Khagaria	1882
22.	Kishanganj	837
23.	Munger	626

1	2	3
24.	Lakhisarai	221
25.	Shaikhpura	143
26.	Jamul	433
27.	Madhubani	4333
28.	Muzaffarpur	7475
29.	Sitamarhi	3383
30.	Sheohar	695
31.	Patna	4115
32.	Nalanda	3300
33.	Saharsa	943
34.	Supaul	754
35.	Madhepura	1059
36.	Samastipur	3493
37.	Rohtas	2693
38.	Bhabua	796
	TOTAL	87864

Selling of postal stamps by vendors in Chhattisgarh

†908. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that revenue stamps are not being sold in post offices situated in the State of Chhattisgarh and Government are selling them through stamp vendors;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.